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Battlefield Action
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Battlefield Action

FIRST PLATOON--- THIRD SQUAD--- TOO MANY PATROLS--TOO MANY ATTACKS---GOOD MEN ON THE TIGHTROPE OF BREAKDOWN---AND ME---? I'M THE GUY WHO HAS TO HOLD THEM TOGETHER---TO KEEP 'EM ALIVE! I'M THE--- "SQUAD LEADER!"

I'LL GET 'EM-- I'LL KILL 'EM ALL!

--NEVER MAKE IT! I'LL NEVER SEE MY WIFE OR BABY!

WHA-- WHERE-- WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

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SQUAD LEADER

CAPTAIN BAKER SENT WORD TO 2ND LT. LEW FILEN...THE 1ST PLATOON HAD TO CROSS THE OPEN GROUND AND FLANK THE GERMAN POSITION IN THE WOODS ON OUR LEFT/ LT. FILEN PASSED THE WORD TO ME...THE 3RD SQUAD WOULD LEAD THE WAY/ I KNEW I'D LOSE MOST OF THEM IF I JUST TOOK THEM THROUGH THE GRASS INTO THE MUZZLE-BLAST OF THE NAZI M.G. ...SO I TOLD THEM TO WAIT FIVE WHILE I GOT INTO POSITION/ WHEN THEY CAME INTO THE OPEN AND THE NAZI GUNNER OPENED UP, I WENT AFTER THE GUNNER/

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OKAY, FAN OUT TO THE LEFT...BE ALERT FOR NAZI M.G.S OR STRONG-POINTS!
KEEP A TIGHT HOLD ON HERO HAWKINS, SARGE! HE GOT IT BAD TODAY!

SHADDUP, MASTROS! JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT A WIFE AND BABY, YOU THINK WE OUGHTA STOP THE WAR! WELL, SOME OF THE REST OF US AIN'T AS CHICKEN AS YOU! WE...
SIMMER DOWN, HERO! MASTROS AIN'T CHICKEN AND YOU KNOW IT!

MASTROS IS A NERVOUS WRECK... HIS WIFE HAD A BABY GIRL TEN DAYS BACK! NOW, MASTROS IS CONVINCED HE AIN'T GONNA LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THE KID!

I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A SQUAD LEADER ANY LONGER! I WAS MORE LIKE A BABY-SITTER...OR THE KEEPER IN A HOSPITAL WARD! LIKE MASTROS, JUST THEN...
LOOK OUT, MASTROS! ON YOUR LEFT!

TAT-RATA-T

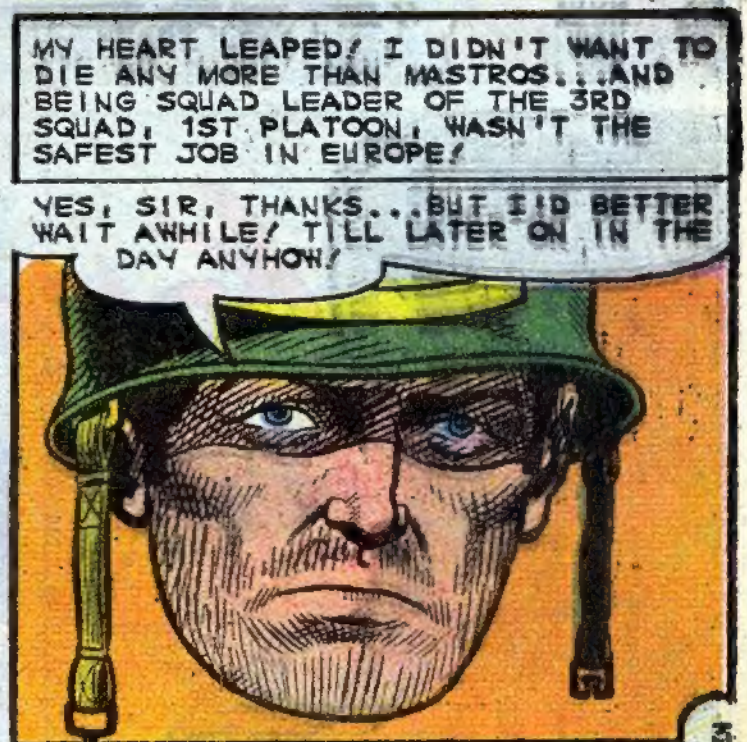
DID YOU SEE THE PICTURE OF THE BABY, SARGE? AIN'T SHE A DOLL?
THE KID'S GOING TO BE AN ORPHAN, DAVE, IF YOU DON'T SNAP OUT OF IT!

GET DOWN!
WHAM

WE'D FLANKED THE STRONGPOINT... NOW, WE STARTED HARRASSING FIRE ON THE GERMANS IN THE WOODS AS THE REST OF THE PLATOON MOVED UP TO JOIN US!
CRAK
POW

YOUR SQUAD DID A GOOD JOB, NICK! HERE, FROM BATTALION H.Q.! I THINK IT'S A BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION!
YOU'RE KIDDIN'!
OFFICIAL

IT'S A COMMISSION, ALRIGHT...BUT IT WON'T BE OFFICIAL UNTIL I REPORT BACK TO H.Q.!
TAKE OFF, BROTHER OFFICER... AS OF NOW, YOU'RE RELIEVED AS 3RD SQUAD LEADER!

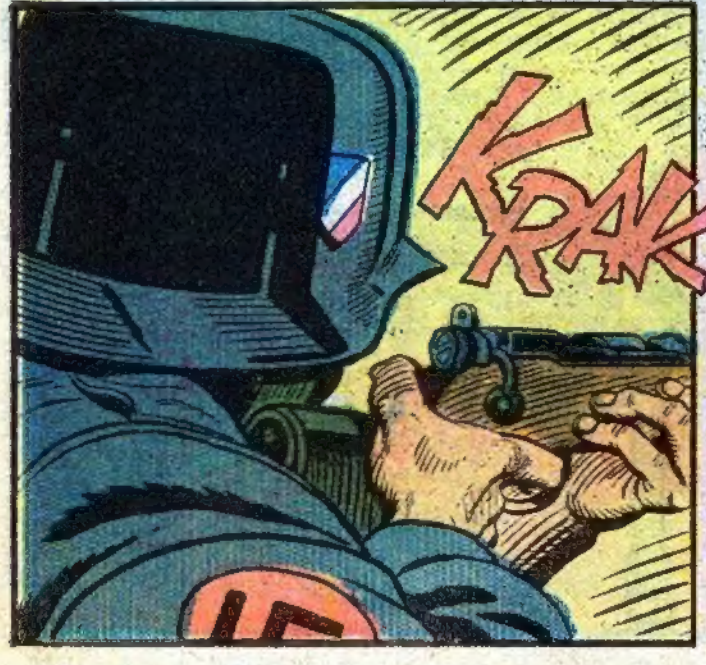

MY HEART LEAPED! I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE ANY MORE THAN MASTROS...AND BEING SQUAD LEADER OF THE 3RD SQUAD, 1ST PLATOON, WASN'T THE SAFEST JOB IN EUROPE!
YES, SIR, THANKS...BUT I'D BETTER WAIT AWHILE! TILL LATER ON IN THE DAY ANYHOW!

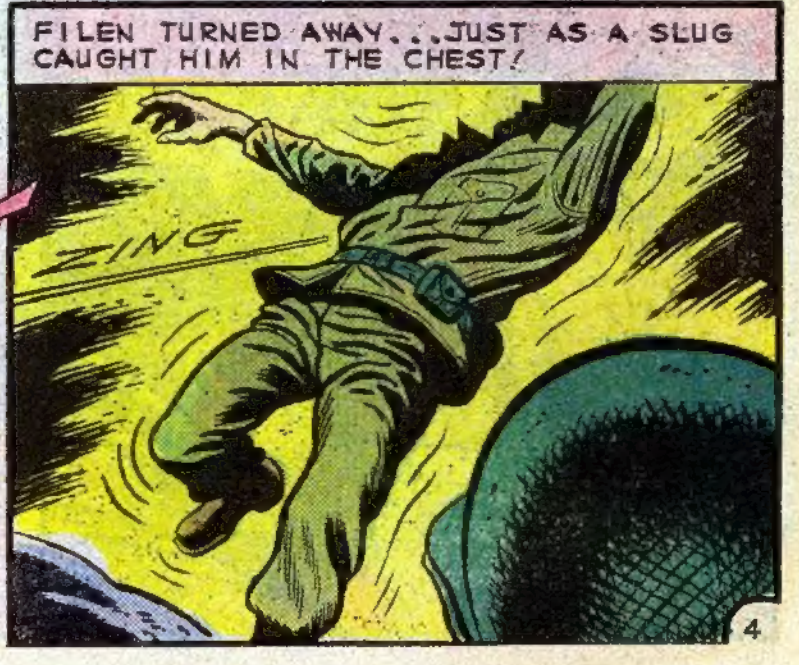
BETTER DO LIKE THE PAPER SAYS, SERGEANT DELANO! TAKE OFF... FIND BATTALION H.Q. AND REPORT TO THE ADJUTANT!
JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER HOUR OR SO, LIEUTENANT! I GOT A COUPLE GUYS IN BAD SHAPE!

MASTROS THINKS HE'S GOING TO DIE BEFORE HE SEES HIS KID! HERO HAWKINS IS HALF APE ALREADY, HE ACTS LIKE HE WANTS TO GET KNOCKED OFF! LEAPY'S SO SHAKY HE HAS TO GET UNDERHILL TO LOAD CLIPS FOR HIM! THESE GUYS ARE ALL IN TROUBLE!

WE GENERALLY BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT THE BEST SQUAD IN CHARLIE COMPANY, NICK! WHAT HAPPENED?
WE LED TOO MANY ATTACKS, SIR! WE'VE BEEN IN THE LINE LONGER THAN THE REST OF THE OUTFIT! I'D LIKE EVERY ONE OF THEM TO GET SENT BACK FOR R AND R FOR AWHILE!

NOBODY LISTENS WHEN I ASK FOR RELIEF FOR THEM...SO I JUST WANT THIS ONE LAST FAVOR... LET ME STICK WITH THEM THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON!
SORRY, NICK! YOU'VE GOT YOUR ORDERS...TELL YOUR SQUAD GOOD-BYE AND HEAD FOR H.Q.!


KRAK


FILEN TURNED AWAY...JUST AS A SLUG CAUGHT HIM IN THE CHEST!
ZING

I LOOKED FOR LEO GARTH A TECH- SGT. WHO RANKED ME BY A MONTH OR TWO...BUT GARTH WAS DEAD, THEY TOLD ME/ SO...UNTIL CAPTAIN BAKER SENT US ANOTHER PLATOON LEADER...I WAS ACTING IN COMMAND/

GET BACK TO THE 1ST SQUAD, ED/ HAVE THE MEN DIG IN DEEP...THE NAZIS'LL THROW A BARRAGE AT US...THEY'VE GOT TO COUNTER-ATTACK AND TRY TO RETAKE THIS AREA/

ZING

THE BARRAGE CAME/ 88MM SHELLS FELL LIKE RAIN...AND MACHINE GUN SLUGS RIPPED AROUND OUR EARS/ I KNEW WHAT WAS NEXT... I'D SEEN THE PATTERN BEFORE/

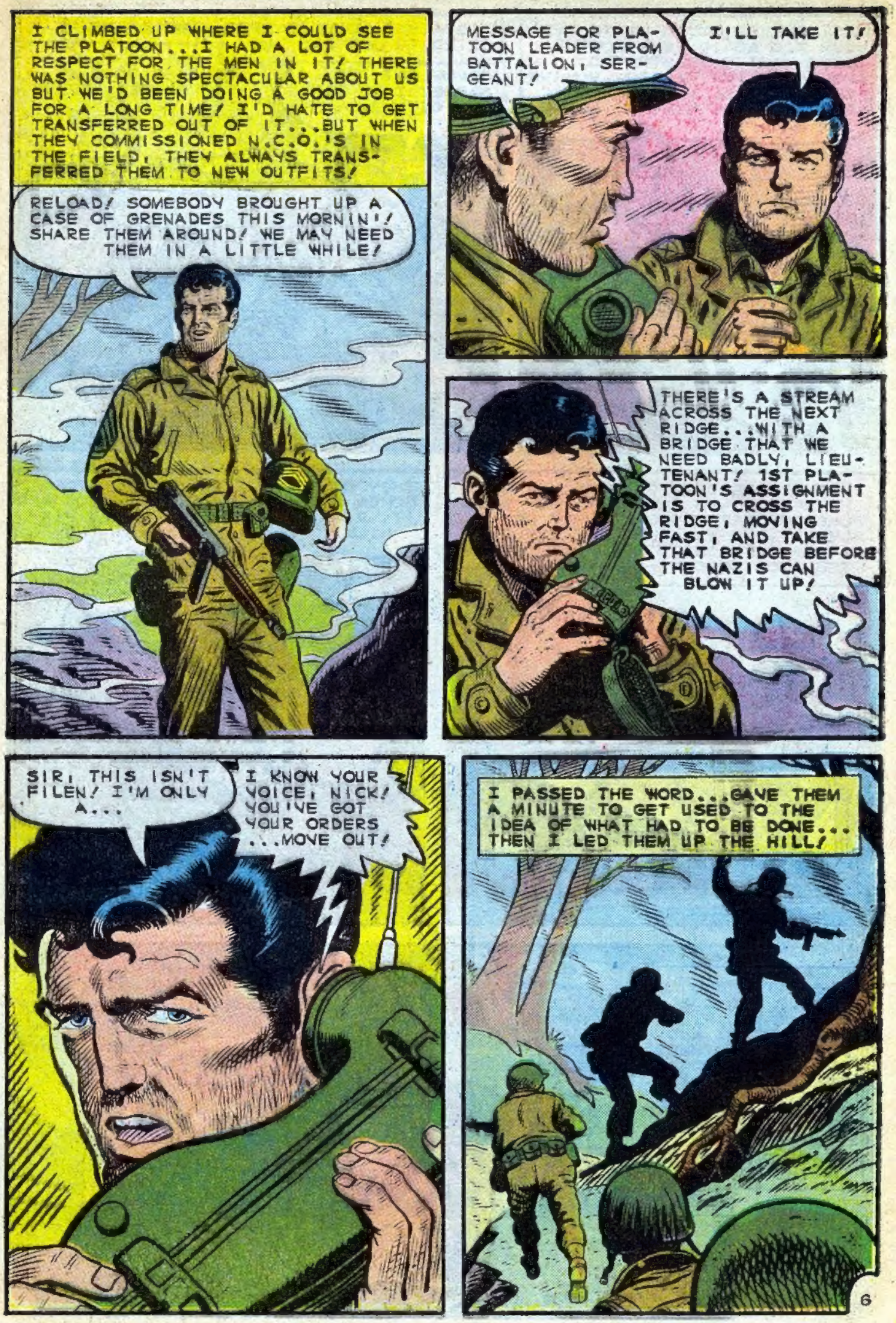
WHAM-O WHAM

INFANTRY ATTACK/

CHECK YOUR WEAPONS/ NAZI INFANTRY WILL BE ON US IN A MINUTE/ LEAPY, KEEP HERO PINNED DOWN IN THE FOXHOLE...DON'T LET HIM GET HIMSELF KNOCKED OFF/

THE 3RD SQUAD AS USUAL HELD FAST/ THEY WERE IN THE CENTER OF THE LINE, THEY TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE ATTACK/ 1ST PLATOON SHOVED THE GERMANS BACK...

KEEP FIRING...AIM YOUR SHOTS...DON'T WASTE AMMO/


I CLIMBED UP WHERE I COULD SEE THE PLATOON...I HAD A LOT OF RESPECT FOR THE MEN IN IT! THERE WAS NOTHING SPECTACULAR ABOUT US BUT WE'D BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB FOR A LONG TIME! I'D HATE TO GET TRANSFERRED OUT OF IT...BUT WHEN THEY COMMISSIONED N.C.O.'S IN THE FIELD, THEY ALWAYS TRANSFERRED THEM TO NEW OUTFITS!
RELOAD! SOMEBODY BROUGHT UP A CASE OF GRENADES THIS MORNIN'! SHARE THEM AROUND! WE MAY NEED THEM IN A LITTLE WHILE!
MESSAGE FOR PLATOON LEADER FROM BATTALION, SERGEANT!
I'LL TAKE IT!
THERE'S A STREAM ACROSS THE NEXT RIDGE...WITH A BRIDGE THAT WE NEED BADLY, LIEUTENANT! 1ST PLATOON'S ASSIGNMENT IS TO CROSS THE RIDGE, MOVING FAST, AND TAKE THAT BRIDGE BEFORE THE NAZIS CAN BLOW IT UP!
SIR, THIS ISN'T FILEN! I'M ONLY A...
I KNOW YOUR VOICE, NICK! YOU'VE GOT YOUR ORDERS ...MOVE OUT!
I PASSED THE WORD...GAVE THEM A MINUTE TO GET USED TO THE IDEA OF WHAT HAD TO BE DONE... THEN I LED THEM UP THE HILL!
6

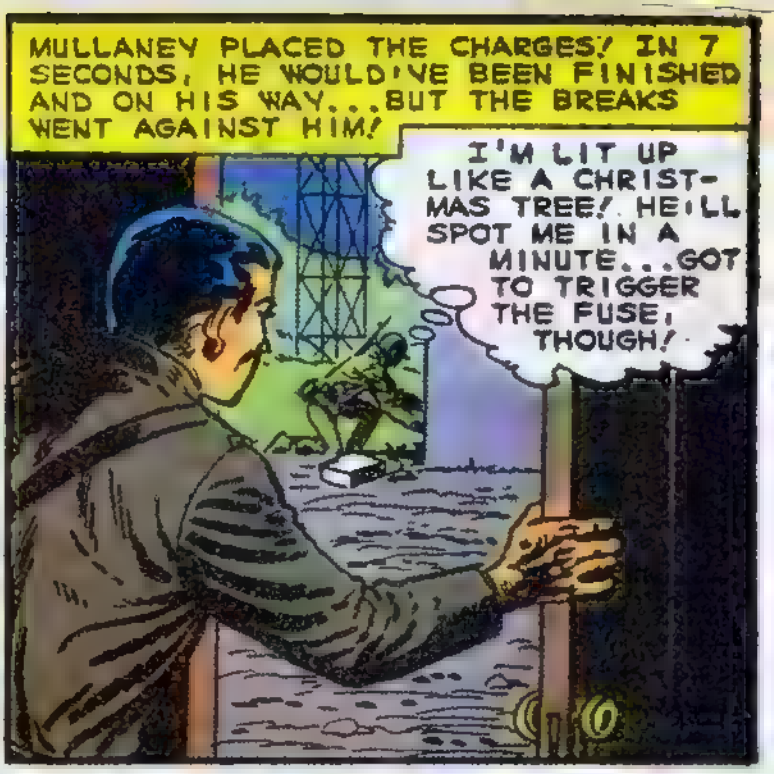
MASTROS, IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR KID AGAIN, BE ON YOUR TOES! YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT GETTIN' KILLED, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL YOU EVER LEARNED ABOUT STAYIN' ALIVE!
I GRABBED HOLD OF HERO HAWKINS AS HE TRIED TO GET PAST ME!
LEMME GET 'EM, SARGE! I'LL WIPE 'EM OUT, I...
YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD TO DO, HERO! GET BACK WITH THE OTHERS!
I MOVED AHEAD TO GET THE LAY OF THE LAND...AND SAW THAT THEY WERE PLACING CHARGES TO BLOW IT UP! ALREADY, THEY HAD ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES IN PLACE TO BLAST IT INTO STEEL TOOTHPICKS!
THEY'RE GONNA BLAST IT, RIGHT, NICK?
I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM! HERO, YOU AND MASTROS START FIRING DOWN AT THE GERMANS...I'M GOING UPSTREAM AND TRY TO COME DOWN UNDER WATER!
THE WATER WAS FRIGID AND I ALMOST GAVE UP... BUT MASTROS AND HERO PLUS OTHERS IN THE PLATOON WERE FIRING! IN FACT, OTHER SQUADLEADERS WERE ATTACKING DOWN THE SLOPE... KEEPING PRESSURE ON THE ENEMY!

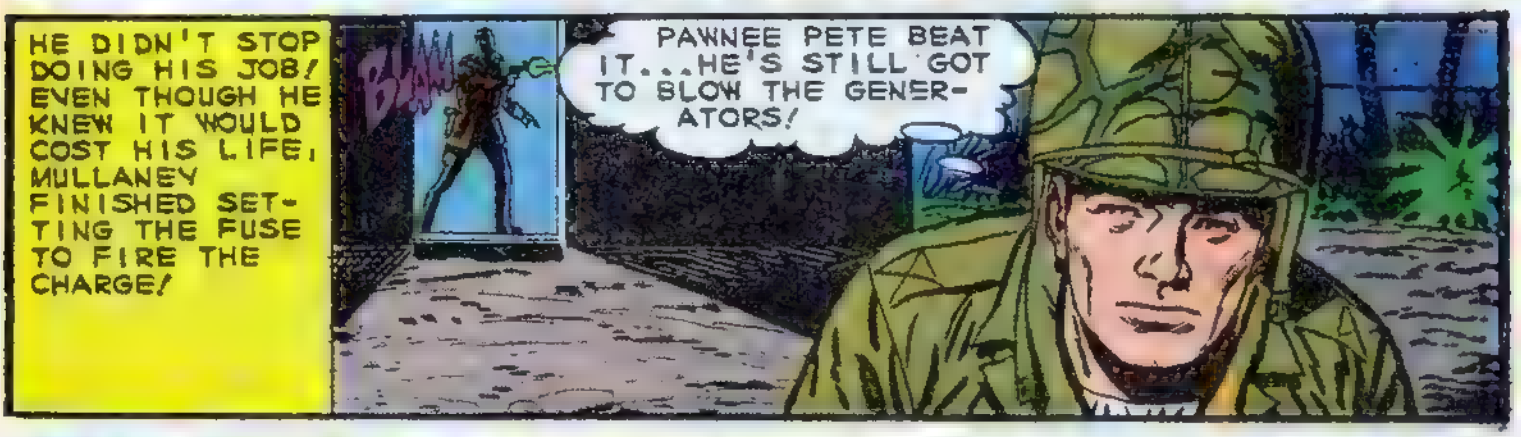
THE NAZIS DIDN'T SPOT ME! AS I SURFACED RIGHT BENEATH THE SPAN, I HOPED MY HANDS WOULDN'T BE TOO NUMB FOR WHAT I HAD TO DO...
RATATAT
HERO HAWKINS TOOK OUT THE MACHINE GUN WHILE MASTROS FORGOT ABOUT HIS FAMILY LONG ENOUGH TO LEAD THEM ONTO THE BRIDGE! LEAPY WAS AS STEADY AS A ROCK BRINGING DOWN HITLER'S BEST...
TAKE COVER...LET THE REST OF THE OUTFIT HAVE A PIECE OF THE WAR!
RATATATAT
POW POW
BAM
KRAK
KRAK
ABOUT AN HOUR LATER, CAPT. BAKER CAME ALONG! HE GAVE ME HIS OLD BARS AND PINNED THEM ON HIMSELF...
I'M PROUD, CAPTAIN ...BUT I HOPE THE 1ST PLATOON GETS A GOOD LEADER!
THEY'LL GET THE BEST, NICK...
YOU'RE THE 1ST PLATOON LEADER ...IN FACT, YOU'VE BEEN DRAWING LIEUTENANT'S PAY ALL AFTERNOON! CONGRATULATION, NICK... YOU DID A GREAT JOB!
END

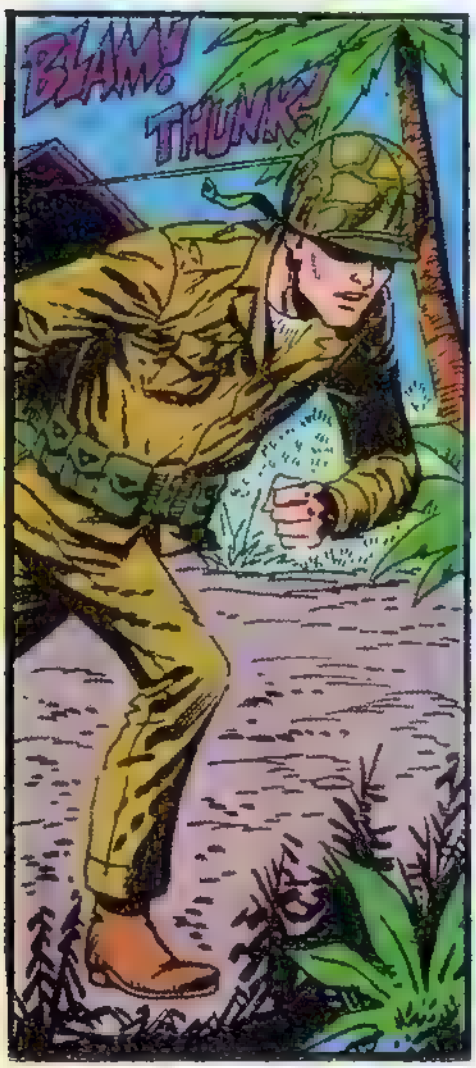
2 MARINES AND 10,000 MISERABLE JAPS

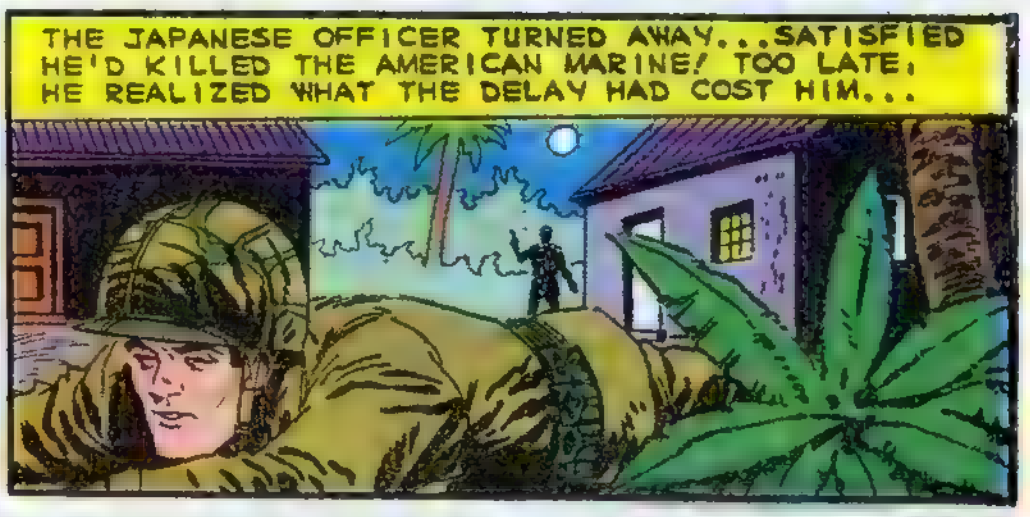
SIX MARINES CAME ASHORE...IT WAS A SUICIDE MISSION...THEY HAD JUST ONE HOUR TO ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THE HUGE STOCKPILES OF AMMUNITION, FUEL, AND AIRCRAFT ON THE IMPREGNABLE JAP ISLAND!
BACK HERE IN 58 MINUTES! IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, WE SHOVE OFF WITHOUT YOU... YOU ALL READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, SKIPPER! COME ON, INJUN, LET'S GO RAID THE JAP WAGON TRAIN!
MULLANEY AND PETE SMITH, THE PAWNEE, HAD THE JAP RADIO INSTALLATION AS THEIR OBJECTIVE...
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME! IF ONE OF US GETS IT, THE OTHER ONE GOES ON WITHOUT HIM, CHECK?
THEY'D STUDIED MAPS AND PICTURES OF THE ISLAND AND THEY FOUND THE RADIO STATION WITH NO TROUBLE...BUT IT WAS HEAVILY GUARDED!
A-5093
ROCKE-NICHOLAS-

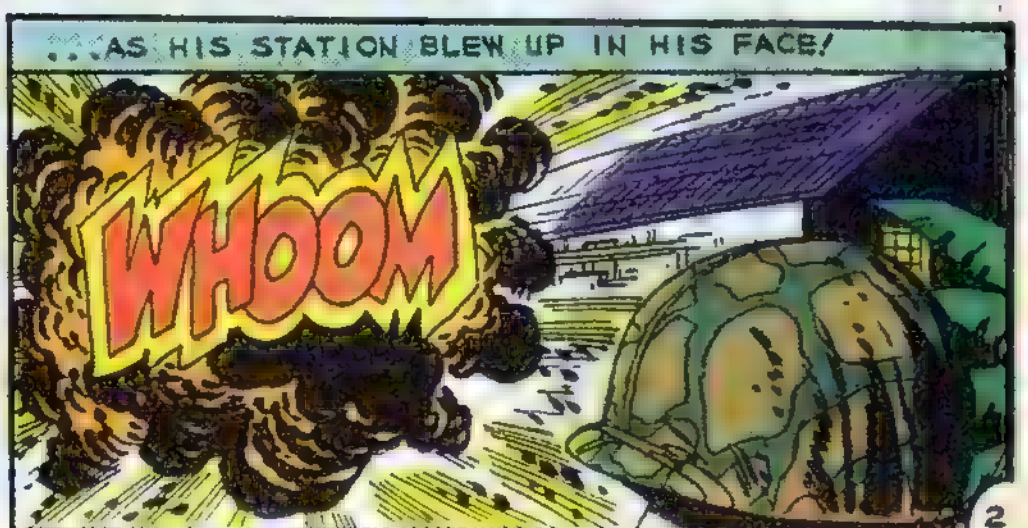
MOVING LIKE SOUNDLESS SHADOWS IN THE NIGHT, MULLANEY AND THE INDIAN NEUTRALIZED FOUR GUARDS, EACH WITHOUT A SOUND...
THUD!


MULLANEY PLACED THE CHARGES! IN 7 SECONDS, HE WOULD'VE BEEN FINISHED AND ON HIS WAY...BUT THE BREAKS WENT AGAINST HIM!
I'M LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE! HE'LL SPOT ME IN A MINUTE...GOT TO TRIGGER THE FUSE, THOUGH!

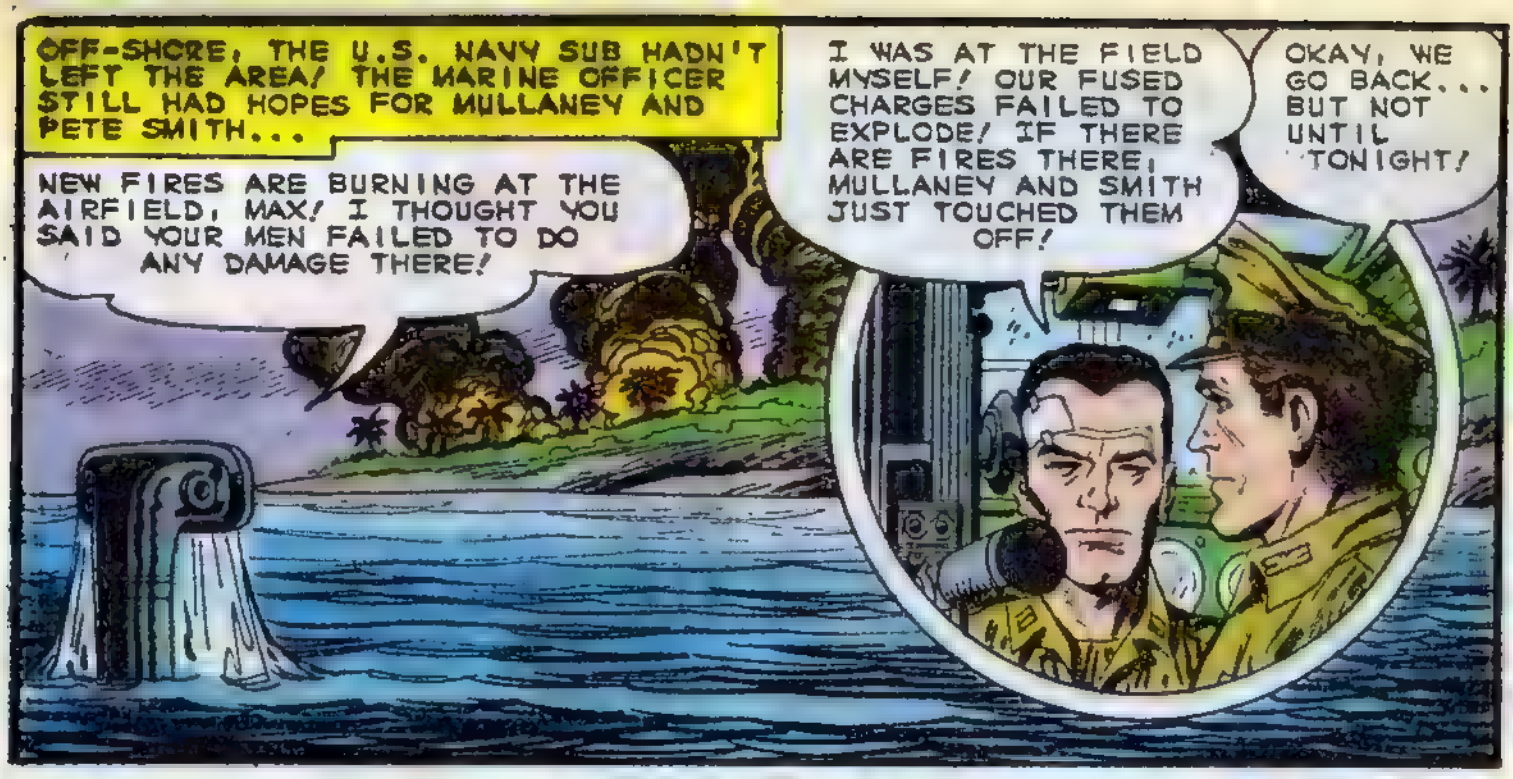

HE DIDN'T STOP DOING HIS JOB! EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW IT WOULD COST HIS LIFE, MULLANEY FINISHED SETTING THE FUSE TO FIRE THE CHARGE!
BLAM!
PAWNEE PETE BEAT IT...HE'S STILL GOT TO BLOW THE GENERATORS!

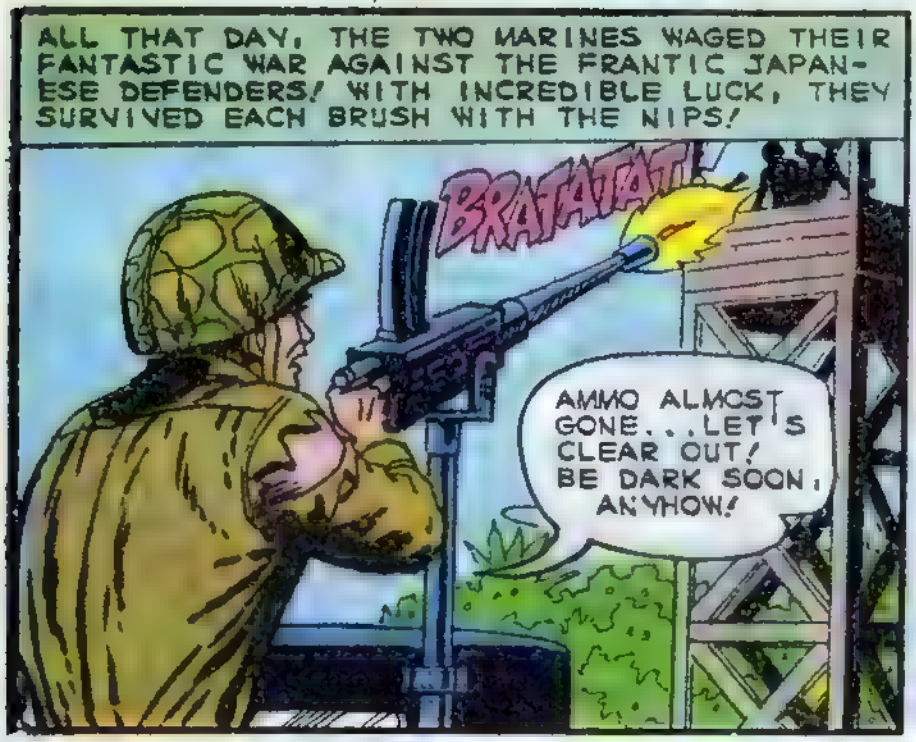

BLAM!
THUNK!


THE JAPANESE OFFICER TURNED AWAY...SATISFIED HE'D KILLED THE AMERICAN MARINE! TOO LATE, HE REALIZED WHAT THE DELAY HAD COST HIM...

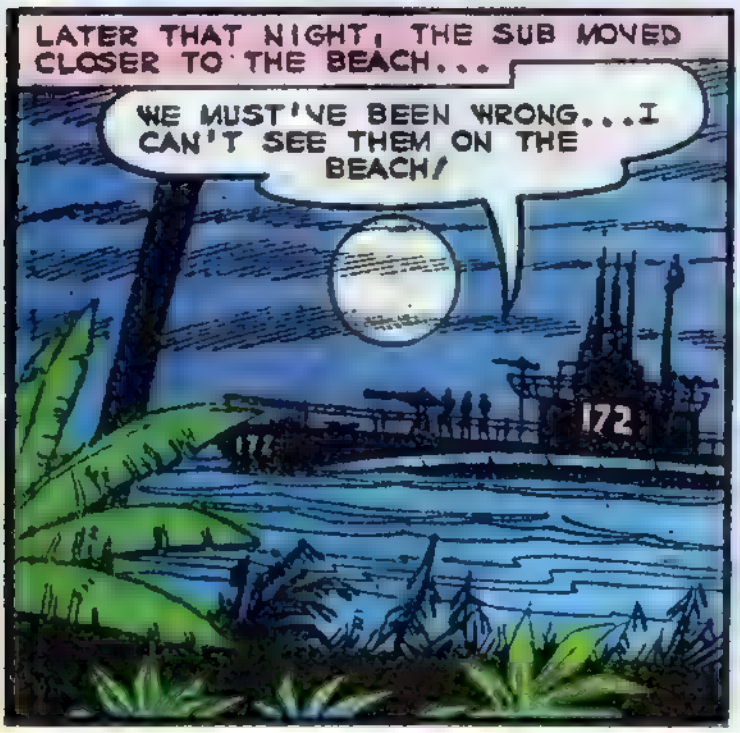

...AS HIS STATION BLEW UP IN HIS FACE!
WHOOM

PAWNEE PETE TOMAHAWKED SOME DRUMS OF FUEL...
AND THEN SET FIRE TO THE GAS! NOW, HE HAD TIME TO THINK OF HIS BUDDY!
GEORGE WAS TO MEET ME HERE! I WILL SEARCH FOR HIM!
TIME'S UP, PAWNEE! LEAVE ME HERE...GET BACK TO THE BEACH!
NO GOOD, MACK! I'M STICKIN' WITH YOU!
MULLANEY HAD BEEN KNOCKED OUT BY THE JAP OFFICER'S BULLET! BY MORNING HE WAS HIMSELF AGAIN...
THESE ARE THE PLANES THE JAPS ARE USING TO BOMB OUR OUTFIT ON GUADALCANAL!
THEY SURE ARE, PAWNEE, SEE THAT TRUCK? WE CAN USE IT!
SEIZING THE UNGUARDED TRUCK, THE MARINES ROARED DOWN THE RUNWAY, THE MACHINE GUN POURING SLUGS INTO EACH PARKED FIGHTER OR BOMBER IT WENT BY!
BRATATATAT
TURN OFF THE AIRSTRIP, IRISH!
VROOOM!
ROGER, ACE...
3


OFF-SHORE, THE U.S. NAVY SUB HADN'T LEFT THE AREA! THE MARINE OFFICER STILL HAD HOPES FOR MULLANEY AND PETE SMITH...
NEW FIRES ARE BURNING AT THE AIRFIELD, MAX! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR MEN FAILED TO DO ANY DAMAGE THERE!
I WAS AT THE FIELD MYSELF! OUR FUSED CHARGES FAILED TO EXPLODE! IF THERE ARE FIRES THERE, MULLANEY AND SMITH JUST TOUCHED THEM OFF!
OKAY, WE GO BACK... BUT NOT UNTIL TONIGHT!


ALL THAT DAY, THE TWO MARINES WAGED THEIR FANTASTIC WAR AGAINST THE FRANTIC JAPANESE DEFENDERS! WITH INCREDIBLE LUCK, THEY SURVIVED EACH BRUSH WITH THE NIPS!
BRATATATAT
AMMO ALMOST GONE...LET'S CLEAR OUT! BE DARK SOON, ANYHOW!

BEST DAY THE INDIANS HAD SINCE THE BATTLE OF LITTLE BIG HORN WHEN CUSTER GOOFED!
DON'T GLOAT, PAL!


LATER THAT NIGHT, THE SUB MOVED CLOSER TO THE BEACH...
WE MUST'VE BEEN WRONG...I CAN'T SEE THEM ON THE BEACH!
172

THAT'S BECAUSE WE AIN'T IN THERE, CAPTAIN! WE SPOTTED YOUR PERISCOPE BEFORE YOU SURFACED AND SWAM OUT!
GLAD YOU DID, MACK! GET BELOW ...YOUR BUDDIES ARE WAITING FOR YOU! TIME FOR US TO TAKE OFF!
END

JUNGLE-FORTRESS

THE VIET CONG HAD THOUSANDS OF CRACK GUERILLA TROOPS IN THE PHUOC THANH PROVINCE JUNGLE! THEY'D BEEN SAFE FROM ATTACK BY THE VIET NAM HERE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR...AND HERE THEY'D STORED RICE, WHEAT, AMMUNITION, AND EVEN MAINTAINED TRAINING FACILITIES BENEATH THE IMPENETRABLE ROOF OF THE RAIN JUNGLE! THE JOINT U.S. AIRBORNE-AND-VIETNAMESE MARINES ATTACK RAN INTO A WALL OF FIRE FROM THE DENSE FOLIAGE AROUND THE HELICOPTER LANDING AREA!

LIEUTENANT, THEY'LL BUTCHER US IF WE DON'T SILENCE THOSE GUNS!

RATTATTA!

BLAM!

BRATTA

BAM!

THEY WILL BUTCHER MY MEN IF I SEND THEM INTO THE JUNGLE TO ATTACK THEM!

THERE WAS ONE MACHINE-GUN THAT SGT. HOYT COULD SEE...AND HE WENT AFTER IT...WILLING TO DIE IF HE HAD TO PAY THE PRICE!

TZING!

TZING!

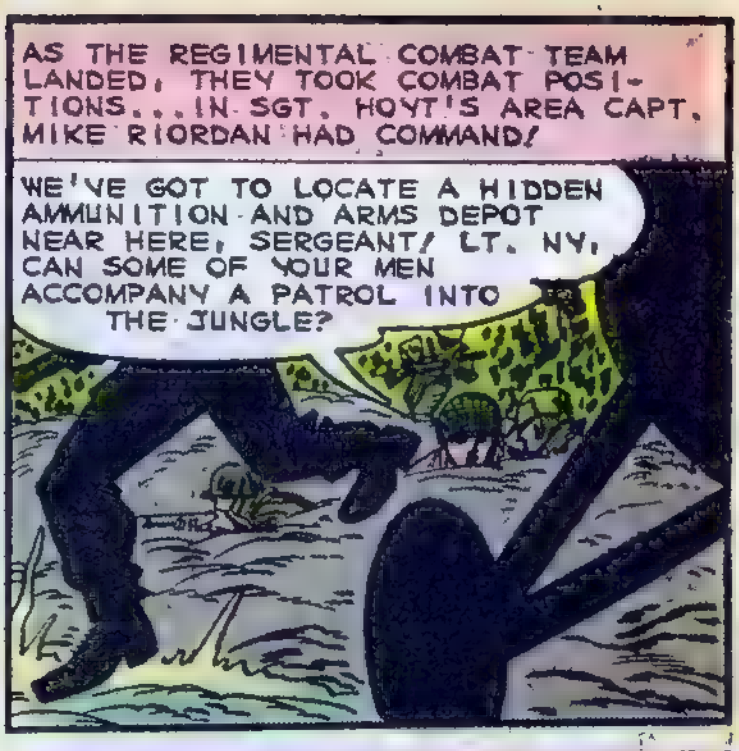
PING!

BLING!

PLING!

A-5165

GOT IT!
BLAM!


AS THE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM LANDED, THEY TOOK COMBAT POSITIONS...IN SGT. HOYT'S AREA CAPT. MIKE RIORDAN HAD COMMAND!
WE'VE GOT TO LOCATE A HIDDEN AMMUNITION AND ARMS DEPOT NEAR HERE, SERGEANT! LT. NY, CAN SOME OF YOUR MEN ACCOMPANY A PATROL INTO THE JUNGLE?

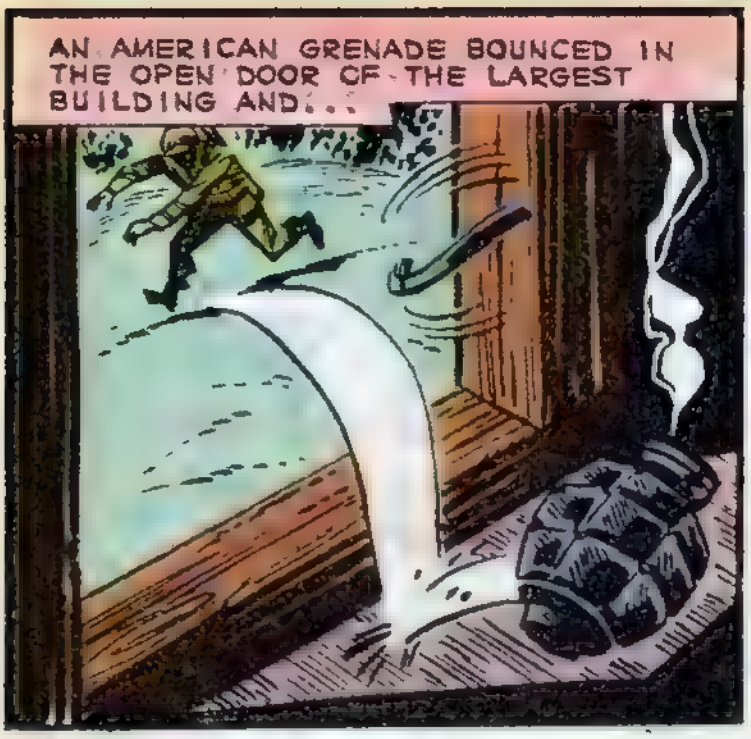
I ONCE LIVED IN A VILLAGE NEAR HERE! I WILL GO WITH SGT. HOYT AND TAKE ONE OF MY MEN!
OKAY, LIEUTENANT! LET'S GO RIGHT NOW BEFORE THE V.C. CAN SET UP ANY STRONG-POINTS!

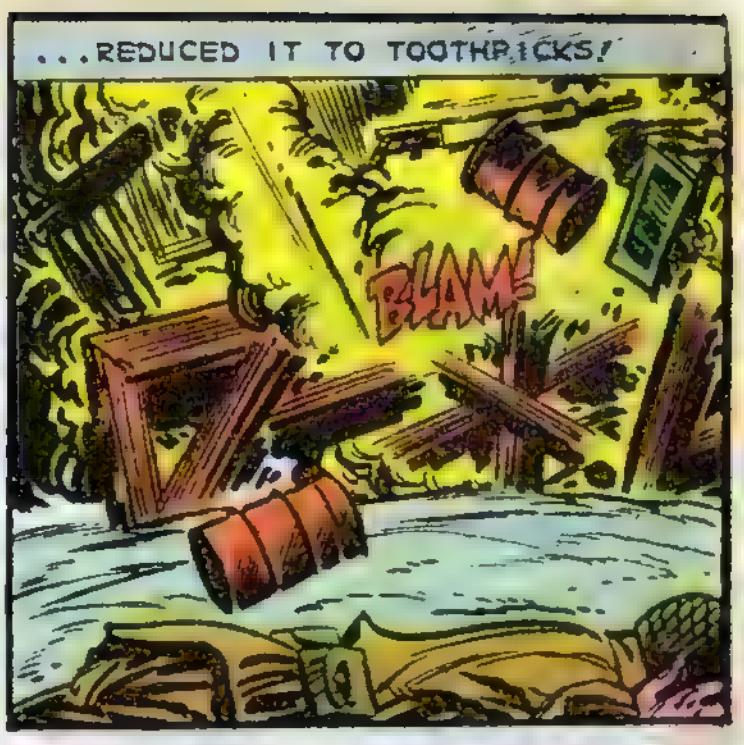
THE VIET CONG HAD RECENTLY GOTTEN WEAPONS SHIPPED FROM RED CHINA, SOME MANUFACTURED IN RUSSIA, SOME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA! NOW, THEY PREPARED TO USE THEM TO BEST ADVANTAGE...

WE'LL NEED EYES IN THE BACK OF OUR HEADS IN THIS STUFF! ANY SIGN OF THE V.C., LIEUTENANT?
SOMETHIN' UP THERE, LUCAS! IT...IT'S A VIET CONG!

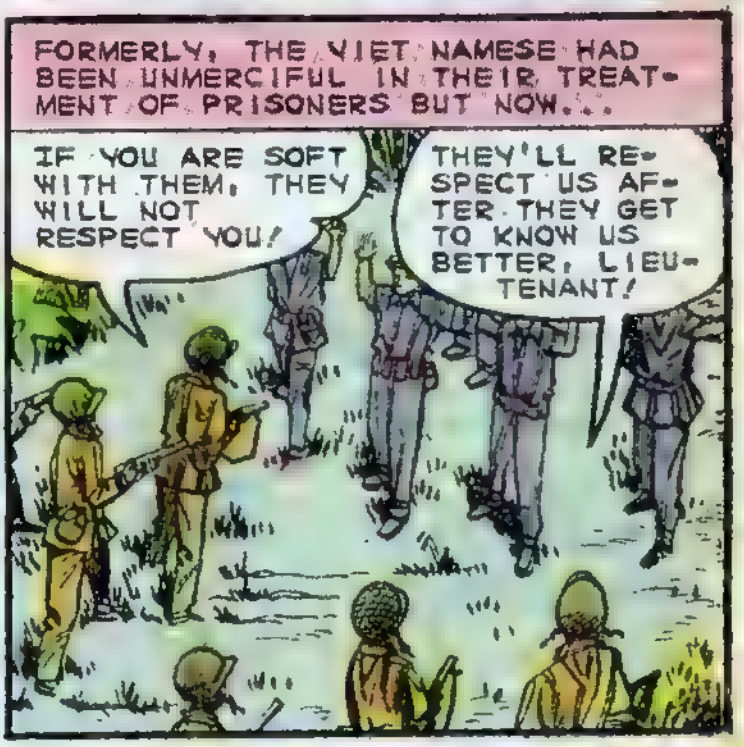
WATCH IT, SARGE, HE'S GOT GRENADES! HE...WATCH THE GRENADE!
BRATT!

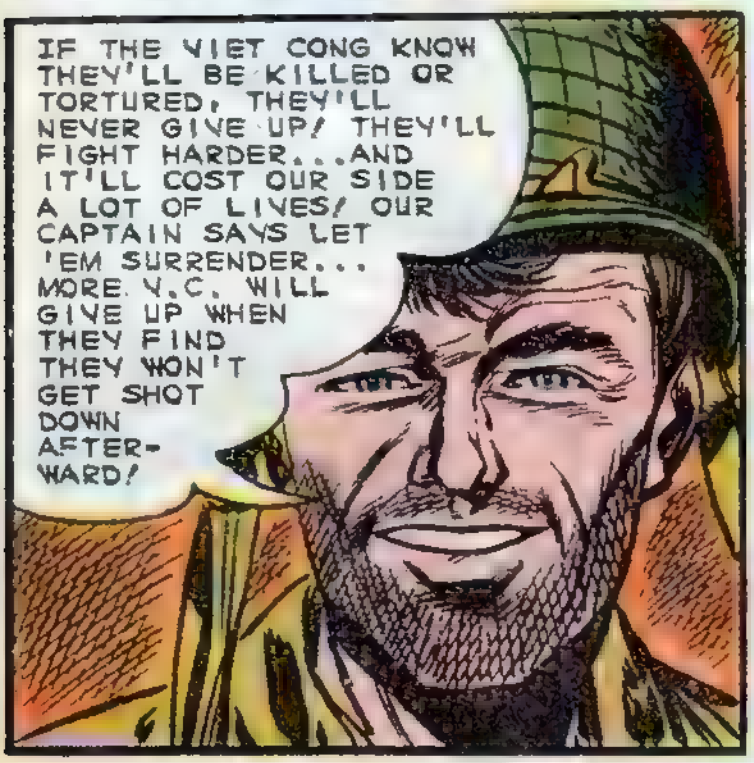
THE GRENADE HIT NEAR HIM BUT SGT. HOYT DIDN'T FALTER...HE'D JUST SPOTTED THE ENEMY WHICH LT. NY DINH WAS PROCEEDING TO ATTACK!
VIET CONG MACHINE GUN, SERGEANT!
BRATTTT
LIVE GRENADE, YOU GUYS! WATCH IT!
I SHOT HIM BEFORE HE COULD PULL THE PIN, LUCAS...THAT GRENADE WON'T GO OFF!
AS THEY BURST THROUGH THE GREEN WALL OF FOLIAGE, SGT. HOYT SAW THE BUILDINGS! NOT A VILLAGE...THIS WAS THE VIET CONG STORAGE AREA! AND THEY FOUGHT SAVAGELY TO KEEP IT!
SEND YOUR MEN AROUND THEM, SERGEANT! WE MUST NOT LET ANY OF THEM GET AWAY!
THIS IS ONE TIME THEY CAN'T RUN! COLONEL SAMUEL'S COMBAT TEAM IS AROUND BEHIND THEM...THEY GOT TO FIGHT!
RAAFT!
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM, SERGEANT! WE MUST FALL BACK!
IF WE DO, THEY'LL TAKE ALL...
THROW A GRENADE INTO THAT SHACK, RIMMON! HURRY UP ABOUT IT!

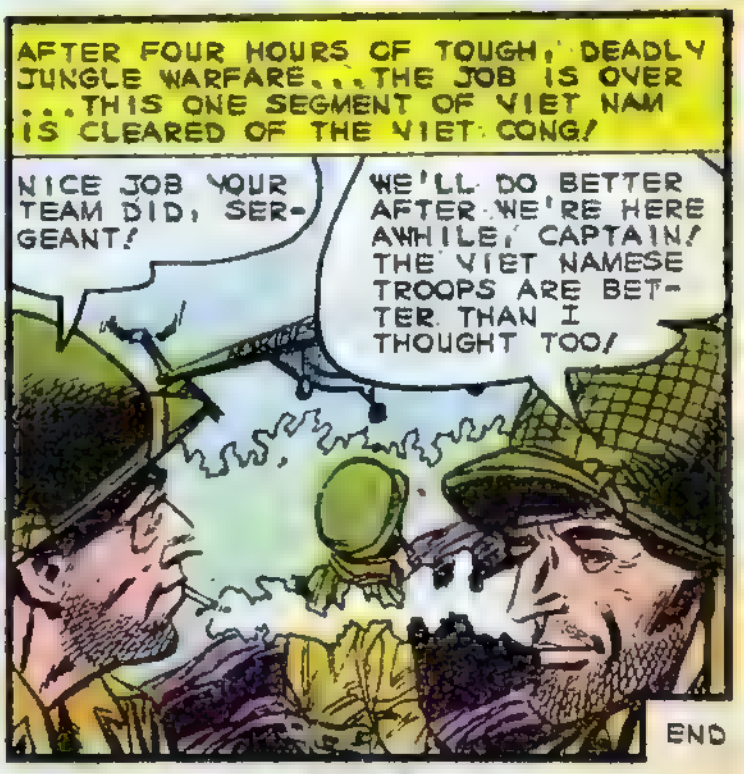

AN AMERICAN GRENADE BOUNCED IN THE OPEN DOOR OF THE LARGEST BUILDING AND...


...REDUCED IT TO TOOTHPICKS!
BLAM!

MY MEN KNOW HOW TO SEARCH THESE JUNGLES...THEY ARE ALL FROM SMALL VILLAGES JUST LIKE THE VIET CONG!
MY MEN ARE LEARNIN' FAST, LIEUTENANT! WE'LL DO OKAY TOO!


FORMERLY, THE VIET NAMESE HAD BEEN UNMERCIFUL IN THEIR TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BUT NOW...
IF YOU ARE SOFT WITH THEM, THEY WILL NOT RESPECT YOU!
THEY'LL RESPECT US AFTER THEY GET TO KNOW US BETTER, LIEUTENANT!


IF THE VIET CONG KNOW THEY'LL BE KILLED OR TORTURED, THEY'LL NEVER GIVE UP! THEY'LL FIGHT HARDER...AND IT'LL COST OUR SIDE A LOT OF LIVES! OUR CAPTAIN SAYS LET 'EM SURRENDER... MORE V.C. WILL GIVE UP WHEN THEY FIND THEY WON'T GET SHOT DOWN AFTERWARD!


AFTER FOUR HOURS OF TOUGH, DEADLY JUNGLE WARFARE...THE JOB IS OVER ...THIS ONE SEGMENT OF VIET NAM IS CLEARED OF THE VIET CONG!
NICE JOB YOUR TEAM DID, SERGEANT!
WE'LL DO BETTER AFTER WE'RE HERE AWHILE, CAPTAIN! THE VIET NAMESE TROOPS ARE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT TOO!
END

BREAKTHROUGH

MAJOR DURANT TOLD COMPANY CLERK PETE MARSHALL TO FIND A JEEP AND DRIVE HIM UP TO THE COMBAT AREA! THE CLERK-TYPIST HAD NEVER BEEN THAT CLOSE TO THE ENEMY BEFORE...AND HE WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS EVEN THOUGH THEN, IN LATE OCTOBER, 1950, THE NORTH KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY WAS REELING BACKWARD FROM THE 8TH ARMY'S ATTACK! CPL. HANK KRUGER, A MACHINE GUNNER IN THE HEAVY WEAPONS SQUAD, DIDN'T MISS HIS CHANCE TO ROUGH UP THE 'REAR ECHELON' HERO...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEARIE? YOU SCARED YOU'LL GET SHOT AT? OR ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT GETTIN' A LITTLE MUD ON THAT NICE CLEAN UNIFORM?

CUT IT OUT, KRUGER!

A-5148

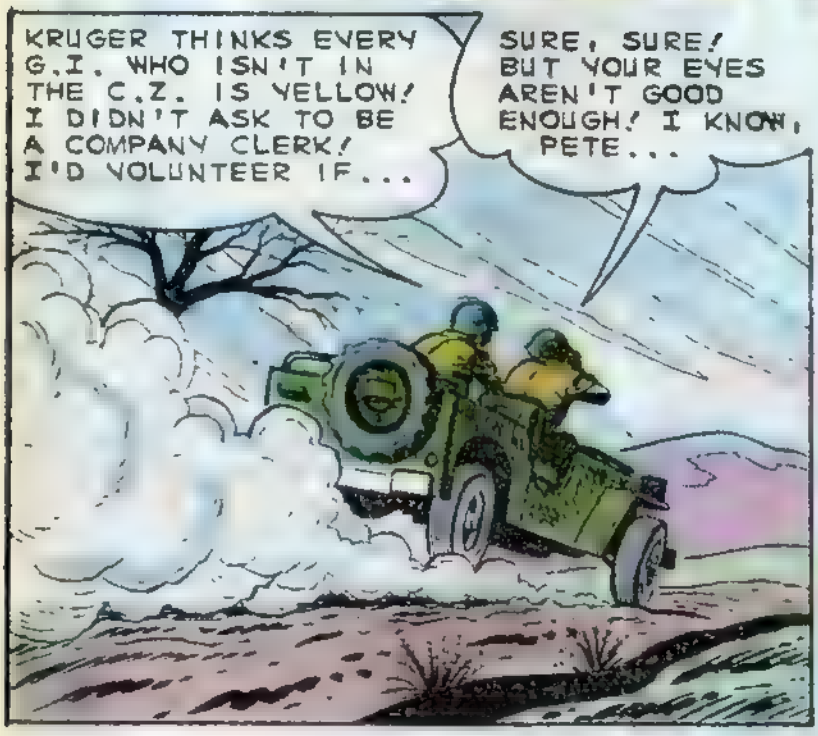
Montes • Bache

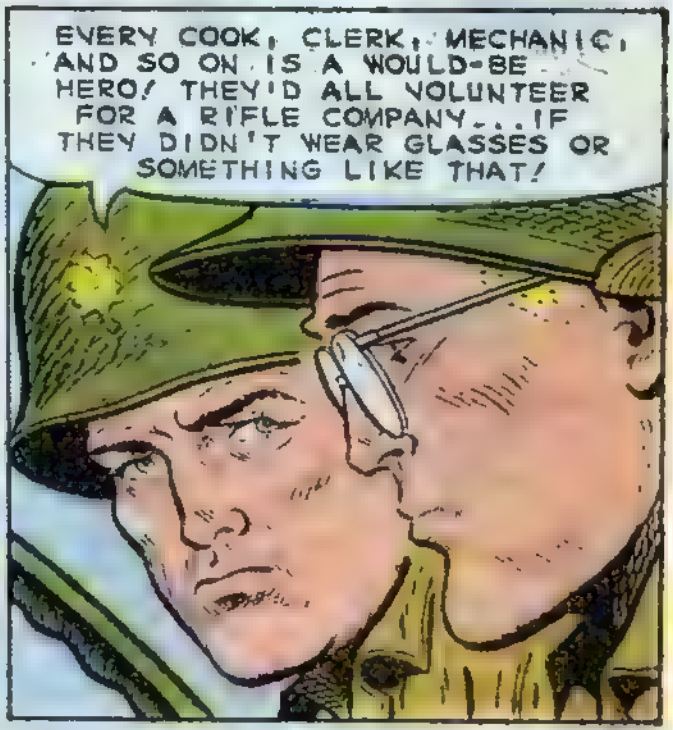
I'LL COURT-MARTIAL THAT APE, MAJOR! HE'S A BULLY!

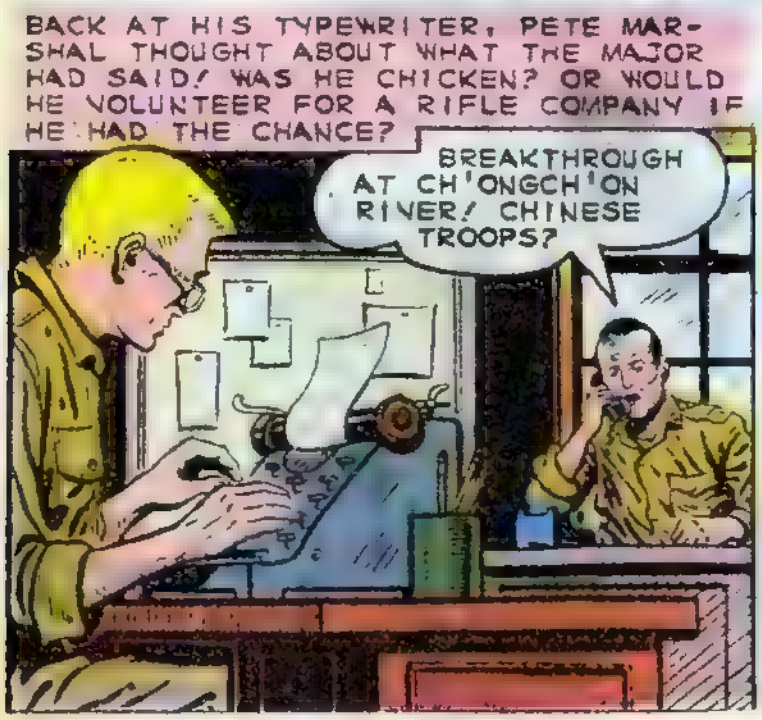
LET HIM ALONE, LIEUTENANT! KRUGER IS A BULLY, ALRIGHT, BUT HE'S A GOOD MACHINE-GUNNER! IF THERE IS A CHINESE BREAKTHROUGH, YOU'LL NEED A MAN LIKE KRUGER MORE THAN I'LL NEED A TYPIST LIKE PETE MARSHALL!

TAKE OFF THE GLASSES, SONNY, I'LL FIX YOU GOOD!
YOU'RE CRAZY, KRUGER...

COME ON SOLDIER... KRUGER, GET TO YOUR MACHINE GUN!

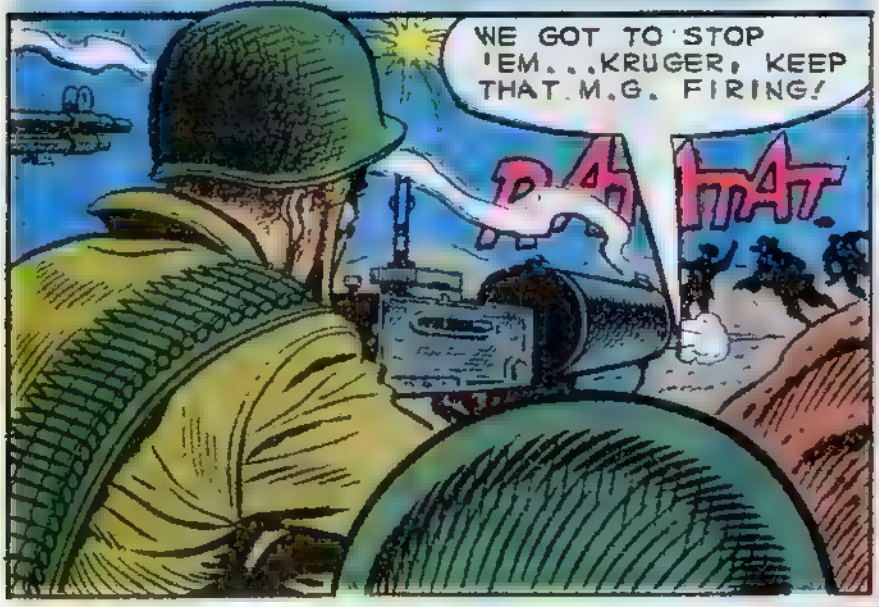

KRUGER THINKS EVERY G.I. WHO ISN'T IN THE C.Z. IS YELLOW! I DIDN'T ASK TO BE A COMPANY CLERK! I'D VOLUNTEER IF...
SURE, SURE! BUT YOUR EYES AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH! I KNOW, PETE...

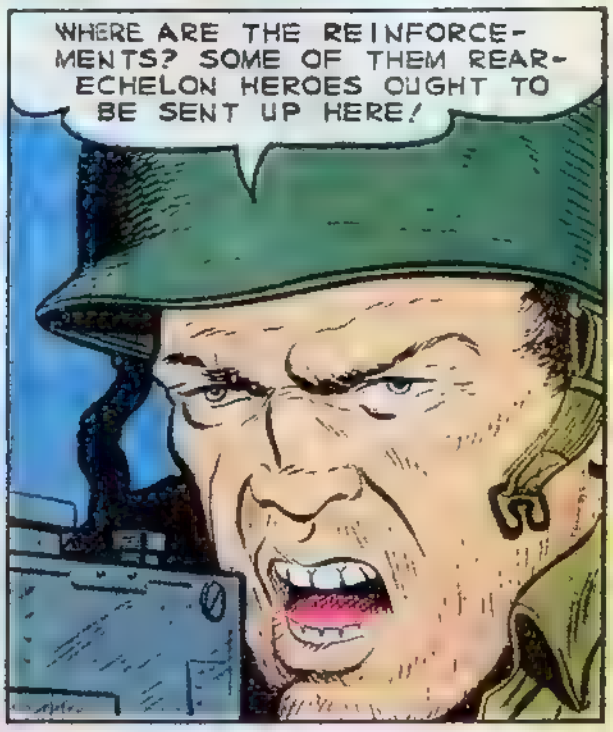

EVERY COOK, CLERK, MECHANIC, AND SO ON IS A WOULD-BE HERO! THEY'D ALL VOLUNTEER FOR A RIFLE COMPANY...IF THEY DIDN'T WEAR GLASSES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

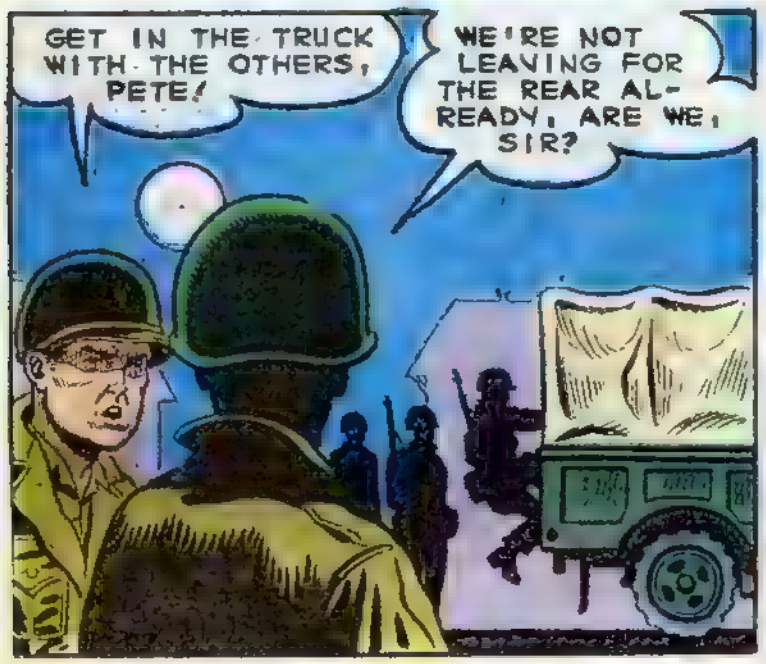

BACK AT HIS TYPEWRITER, PETE MARSHAL THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THE MAJOR HAD SAID! WAS HE CHICKEN? OR WOULD HE VOLUNTEER FOR A RIFLE COMPANY IF HE HAD THE CHANCE?
BREAKTHROUGH AT CH'ONGCH'ON RIVER! CHINESE TROOPS?

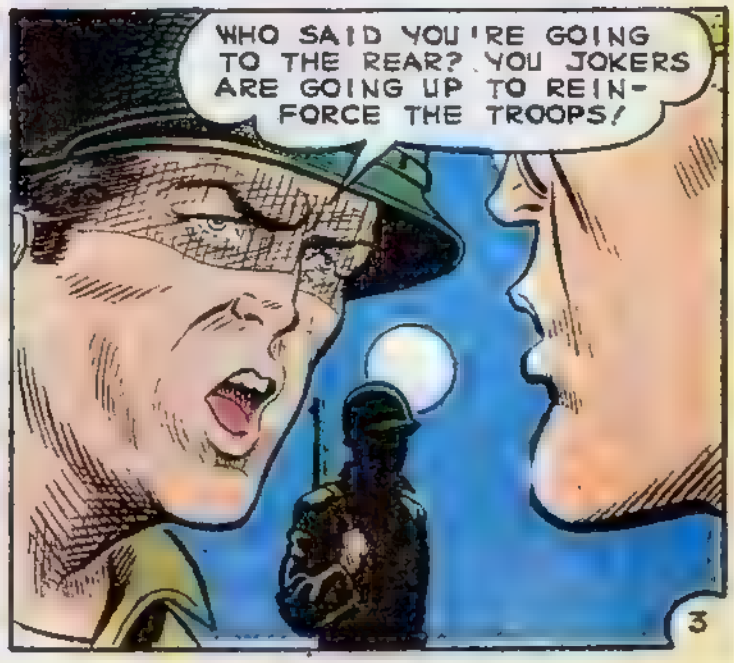
CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES ARE IN KOREA...BREAKTHROUGH NORTH OF HERE! ALERT ALL REAR ECHELON PERSONNEL TO GET READY TO MOVE OUT!

THEY CAME BLOWING BUGLES, FIRING FLARES, SCRAMBLING OVER ONE ANOTHER...FLOWING ACROSS THE STEEP KOREAN HILLS ON FOOT, NOT DEPENDENT ON ROADS LIKE THE 8TH ARMY!









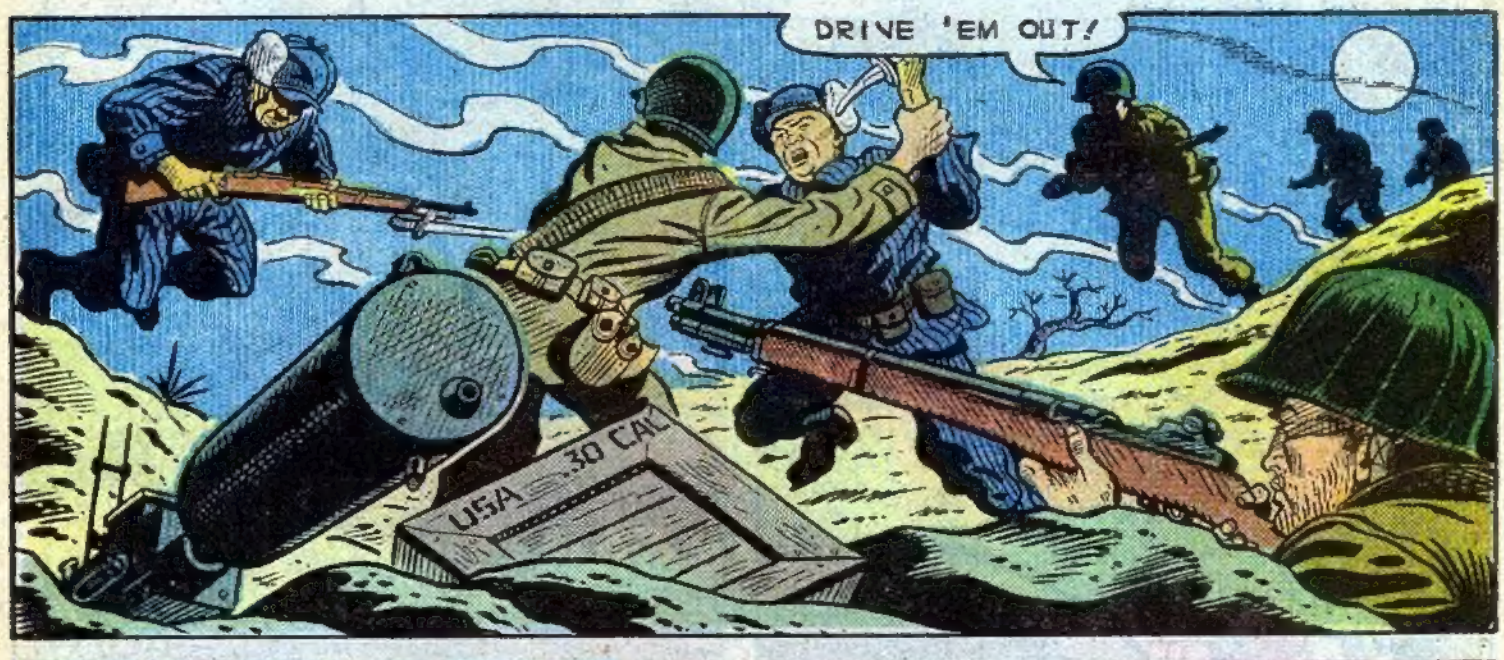
THE TRUCKS RACED NORTHWARD AT TOP SPEED, THE TROOPS AND DRIVERS DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE DRIVING INTO A TRAP! THE CCF HAS ALREADY PENETRATED DEEP BEHIND THE 8TH ARMY PERIMETER!
HEY, MARSHAL, DID THEY TEACH YOU HOW TO FIRE AN M1...OR THE ARMY JUST HAND YOU A TYPEWRITER THE DAY YOU SIGNED UP?
VRRRMM
I'LL DO JUST AS GOOD AS YOU, COOKIE! THERE ISN'T A G.I. IN THIS TRUCK WHO HAD ADVANCED WEAPONS TRAINING!
BARROOM
THE CCF HAD CUT THE MSR...AND A GRENADE STOPPED THE 6X6 AS IT RACED NORTH! RED CHINESE TROOPS OPENED A SAVAGE FIRE ON THE G.I.S!
TAKE COVER!
RATATAT
TATATT
TATATT
USA

SOME OF THE INEXPERIENCED G.I.S DIED BEFORE THEY GOT TO FIRE A SHOT...BUT PETE MARSHALL REACTED INSTINCTIVELY AS HE FACED A SNARLING CHINAMAN... AND PUDGE LODIS FORGOT HE HAD A WEAPON IN HIS LEFT HAND...AS HE SLUGGED A RED WITH HIS RIGHT!
WHAT'LL WE DO, PETE? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS JAZZ!
OUR ORDERS ARE TO HEAD NORTH AND REINFORCE ABLE COMPANY! I GUESS WE OUGHT TO PROCEED ON FOOT!
GET READY TO DIVE FOR COVER, YOU GUYS! THIS IS A BAD SPOT RIGHT HERE!
THE COMPANY CLERK WENT NUMB WITH THE SHOCK WHEN THE CCF YANKED A BUSH AWAY...AND THE MACHINE GUN STARTED FIRING!
YOU GUYS GET DOWN!
BUDDA-BUDDA
5

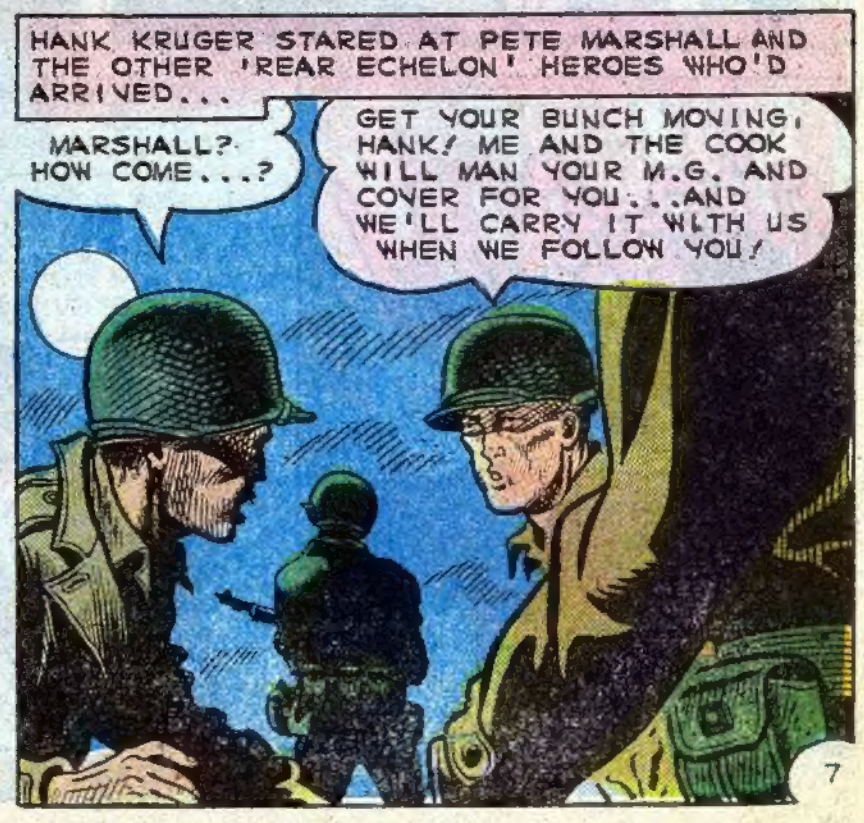
THE TYPIST SEEMED TO GO BERSERK... CHARGING RIGHT INTO THE SNARLING MACHINE GUN!
ZiiP
ZiNG
ZiP
ZiNG
NOW, IT'S MY TURN!
THUD
WE GOT THIS BUNCH! KEEP AN EYE PEELED FOR ANY OTHERS!
TALKIN' ABOUT PEELED EYES, PETE...
...YOU'RE OUTA BUSINESS I GUESS! YOUR CHEATERS ARE BUSTED!
GOOD...THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MY MI.SERIES ANYHOW!
MY EYES WERE FINE UNTIL I ENLISTED IN THE ARMY...AND HAD SOME ARMY OCCULIST EXAMINE ME AND TOLD ME I NEEDED GLASSES! I DO...FOR READING, TYPING, THINGS LIKE THAT...

THE TYPIST STOPPED TALKING AND FIRED A SHORT BURST FROM THE HIP...AND A CHINESE RED DIED 90 YARDS AWAY!
HE'S RIGHT...HIS EYES ARE BETTER THAN MINE!

THERE WAS HEAVY FIRING FROM THE HILL AHEAD! THE SOUND OF CHINESE BUGLES SENT CHILLS THROUGH THE G.I.S RACING TO HELP THEIR COMRADES...
COME ON BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHAM
WHRAM


DRIVE 'EM OUT!
USA .30 CAL

KRAK


HANK KRUGER STARED AT PETE MARSHALL AND THE OTHER 'REAR ECHELON' HEROES WHO'D ARRIVED...
MARSHALL? HOW COME...?
GET YOUR BUNCH MOVING, HANK! ME AND THE COOK WILL MAN YOUR M.G. AND COVER FOR YOU...AND WE'LL CARRY IT WITH US WHEN WE FOLLOW YOU!

THE T-34 RED TANK STARTED PUMPING SHELLS AT MARSHALL AND THE COOK FROM 1000 YARDS AWAY! THE PAIR OF REAR-ECHELON WARRIORS KNEW IT WAS TIME TO VACATE...

WHAT'S THE USE, PETE! THAT THING WILL CHASE US DOWN THE ROAD AND RUN RIGHT OVER US ANYHOW!

THAT'S THE WAY THEY'LL OPERATE, BARNEY! GRAB THE TRIPOD AND THE AMMO!

BLAM

AIN'T WE HEADIN' SOUTH?

NOT YET! GET IN HERE!

WHAM

HE'S A REAL FANATIC...

BA-ROOM

THEY CAME DOWN THE ROAD, LAST IN THE CH'ONGOH' ON RETREAT...AND CPL. HANK KRUGER KNEW HE'D LOST A GUN!

UNLESS YOU WANT A FAT LIP, KRUGER, YOU'LL GO SCROUNGE ANOTHER M.G.! ME AND THE COMPANY COOK ARE THE MACHINE GUNNERS IN THIS OUTFIT NOW!

OKAY, SLUGGER...I DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE FIGHTIN' NOW ANYHOW!

END